

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: November 15, 2010
Received: November 06, 2010
Status: Posted
Posted: November 15, 2010
Tracking No. 80b83c6e
Comments Due: November 08, 2010
Submission Type: Web

Docket: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0622

Comment submitted by D. and T. Bruce

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: David and Teresa Bruce

Organization: Rainbow Hill Farm

General Comment

The Proposed Chesapeake Bay TMDL perhaps in theory and intent is a good plan, but it seems to be directed at farmers, who are not financially in a position to do as much as they'd like to help insure clean water in the Bay. Farmers are among the most loyal conservationists and lovers of clean and pristine water in the country, yet we are being forced to comply with regulations that could put us out of business. We are already reeling from the impact of mandate for the use of more of the nation's corn crop being made into ethanol, which drives up feed costs and uses huge quantities of fresh water to make. On our farm alone, we have, with the help of government monies, made advances to protect and preserve the quality of the Smith Creek, part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The TMDL amounts to a "Cap and Trade" system to break the few farms out here who have survived to date. When we decided to make a life in farming, there were about 4% of the nations people feeding the multitudes. That was in the 1970s. Now the number of farmers is 1.8%. Farmers are not the enemy of the Chesapeake Bay. We take pride in our beautiful land and water. Don't make villians of us. Look up the Smith Creek Restoration Project on YouTube. Burdensome regulations will only hurt us, and put us out of business. Farmers know that if you don't take care of it, you lose it. We work very hard to care for the environment, and make very little money in the process. We aren't rich! You might look to the commercial plants that pollute, and communities who allow residents to pour toxic things down the drain. The TMDL is a flawed model, and unjustly blames farms for the ills of the Chesapeake Bay. If there will be requirements made to the farmers, which are good for the land and water, then there must be money provided to the farms for implementing them. In this time of deficit spending by our government, how can we expect the state or federal government to help us? No farms, no food.